

25 November 2003

ANNOUNCEMENT OF 2004 INTERNATIONAL ICE PATROL SERVICES

In February of 2004, the International Ice Patrol (IIP) will commence its annual service of providing maritime safety information on ice conditions in the vicinity of the Grand Banks of Newfoundland. Reports of ice in this area will originate from various sources, including passing ships and IIP reconnaissance flights. Pending ice season severity, IIP will broadcast the southeastern, southern, and southwestern limits of all known ice in two message bulletins each day and two daily graphical charts containing ice information, to inform ships of the extent of the estimated limits of all known ice. The Ice Patrol continually monitors ice conditions in the vicinity of the Grand Banks and will commence iceberg warning information when appropriate; however, regardless of ice density, the International Ice Patrol will begin broadcasting at least weekly (Friday) updates beginning on February 13, 2004 at 1200UTC.

The International Ice Patrol strives to locate and track icebergs south of 52°N, especially those south of 48°N, which may pose a hazard to shipping in the vicinity of the Grand Banks of Newfoundland. When position, time, size, and description of iceberg sightings are reported to IIP, the data is entered into a computer program that predicts the icebergs' drift. Please note that the iceberg positions reported in all IIP products are always the predicted position for the date and time of that product. As the time after sighting increases, so does the probability of error in the icebergs' predicted positions. This probability of error is taken into account when the limits of all known ice are determined.

The purpose of Ice Patrol's messages and charts is to advise mariners of our best estimate of the extent of icebergs in the region of the Grand Banks of Newfoundland. The iceberg positions represented within the estimated limits are intended only to provide the mariner an understanding of the relative densities of icebergs. Any attempt to navigate among icebergs within the estimated limits on the basis of the facsimile charts or message bulletins is strongly discouraged.

While the International Ice Patrol strives to be as accurate as possible in reporting the presence of icebergs to mariners, it is not possible to assure that all icebergs are reported. Mariners are strongly urged to use radar carefully, but not to rely entirely upon it to detect icebergs, since icebergs are often not detected by radar alone. There is no substitute for vigilance and prudent seamanship, especially when navigating near sea ice and icebergs.

All ships are encouraged to immediately report sightings of ice to COMINTICEPAT GROTON CT when near or within the "estimated limits of all known ice." Ships are encouraged to make reports even if "no ice" is sighted as knowledge of where ice is not is also very important. When reporting ice, please include the following information:

SHIP NAME AND CALL SIGN

ICEBERG POSITION (Specify either the geographic coordinates (latitude, longitude) or range/bearing from ship's stated geographic position (latitude, longitude))

TIME OF SIGHTING (in UTC)

METHOD OF DETECTION (Visual, Radar, or Both)

SIZE AND SHAPE OF ICEBERG (see Tables 2 and 3)

SEA ICE CONCENTRATION (In Tenths)

SEA ICE THICKNESS IN FEET OR METERS (Specify Units)

In addition to ice reports, sea surface temperature and weather reports are important to the Ice Patrol in predicting the drift and deterioration of ice and in planning aerial patrols. If you make routine weather reports to METEO Washington please continue to do so. If your vessel does not normally make the above reports, then it is requested that you make special reports directly to the Ice Patrol every 6 hours when within the area between latitudes 40°N and 52°N and between longitudes 39°W to 57°W. Ships with one radio operator may prepare the reports every 6 hours and hold them for transmission when the radio operator is on watch. When reporting, please include the following:

SHIP POSITION, COURSE, SPEED, VISIBILITY, AIR AND SEA SURFACE TEMPERATURE, BAROMETRIC PRESSURE, WIND DIRECTION AND SPEED.

Report ice sightings, weather, and sea surface temperature to COMINTICEPAT GROTON CT through INMARSAT, U.S. Coast Guard Communication Stations or Canadian Coast Guard Marine Communications and Traffic Services.

If reporting ice sightings to International Ice Patrol through INMARSAT A or C, use Service Code 42. This will ensure the ice information reaches the COMINTICEPAT GROTON, CT. There is no charge for ice reports made using Service Code 42.

Iceberg sightings may also be reported on guarded frequencies listed in Table 4. (Note that Narrow Band Direct Printing (NBDP (F3C)) radio teletype is available through CAMSLANT Chesapeake (NMN)).

Telephone communications are available to the Ice Patrol Office in Groton, CT throughout the season. The contact numbers are: 860-441-2626 or 860-441-2773 (Fax). The Ice Patrol Duty Officer can be reached 0700-1630 EST. After normal working hours messages are relayed via the Coast Guard Atlantic Area Command Center. The contact numbers are: 757-398-6231 or 757-398-6392 (Fax).

International Ice Patrol earnestly solicits feedback, particularly concerning the value and effectiveness of its services. Questions or comments can be provided by calling 860-441-2626, faxing 860-441-2773, or via e-mail to iipcomms@rdc.uscg.mil.

M. R. HICKS
Commander, U. S. Coast Guard
Commander, International Ice Patrol

TABLE 1: IIP BROADCASTS

BROADCAST STATION	BROADCAST TIME (UTC)	FREQUENCIES (kHz)
<u>NAVTEX Broadcast</u>		
USCG Communication Station Boston/NMF	0045, 0445, 0845 1245, 1645, 2045	518 F1B
	Special Broadcast during next available time slot	518 F1B
Canadian CG Marine Communications and Traffic Service St. John's/VON	1820 (Winter), 2220 (Summer)	518 F1B
<u>SITOR Broadcast</u>		
USCG Communication Station Boston/NMF (NIK via NMF)	0030	6314, 8416.5, 12579 F1B
	1218	8416.5, 12579, 16806.5 F1B
<u>RADIOFACSIMILE Broadcast</u>		
USCG Communication Station Boston/NMF (NIK via NMF)	1600, 1810	6340.5, 9110, 12750 F3C
Offenbach (Main), Germany via Hamburg/DDH & Pinneberg/DDK	0930, 2100	3855, 7880, 13882.5 F1C
<u>Radio Telephone</u>		
Canadian CG Marine Communications and Traffic Service St. Anthony/VCM (Iceberg Bulletin for NFLD Coast & Belle Isle)	0107, 0907, 1907	2598 J3E
	Continuous	VHF Channel 21B, 83B
<u>Special Broadcasts</u>		
Canadian CG Marine Communications and Traffic Service St. John's/VON	0007, 0837, 1637, 2207 & as required	2598 J3E
	Continuous	VHF Channel 21B, 28B & 83B
<u>INMARSAT SafetyNET Broadcasts</u>		
AOR-E and AOR-W Satellites	0000, 1200	INMARSAT C SafetyNET
	Special Broadcasts of targets outside limits sent upon receipt	
<u>World Wide Web</u>		
International Ice Patrol Web Page	updated daily after 0000, 1200	http://www.uscg.mil/lantarea/iip/home.html
National Weather Service	updated daily after 1600	http://weather.noaa.gov/pub/fax/PIEA88.gif
<u>Automated Weather Network</u>		
Automated Weather Network (AWN)	updated daily after 0000, 1200	Header: STNT41 KNIK
<u>Facsimile Chart Upon Demand</u>		
Fax On Demand	updated daily after 1600	fax: 1-860-441-2773
E-mail On Demand	updated daily after 1600	ftpmail@weather.noaa.gov

TABLE 2: SIZE DESCRIPTIONS USED BY ICE PATROL

<u>DESCRIPTIVE NAME</u>	<u>HEIGHT</u>		<u>LENGTH</u>	
	<u>(ft)</u>	<u>(m)</u>	<u>(ft)</u>	<u>(m)</u>
Growler	< 17	< 5	< 50	< 15
Small Berg	17-50	5-15	50-200	15-60
Medium Berg	51-150	16-45	201-400	61-122
Large Berg	151-240	46-75	401-670	123-213
Very Large Berg	> 240	> 75	> 670	> 213

TABLE 3: SHAPE DESCRIPTIONS USED BY ICE PATROL

<u>SHAPE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
Non-Tabular	This category covers all icebergs that are not tabular-shaped as described below. This includes icebergs that are dome-shaped, sloping, blocky, and pinnacle.
Tabular	Flat topped iceberg with length-height ratio greater than 5:1.

TABLE 4: REPORT RECEIVING STATIONS

RECEIVING STATION	MARINE COMMUNICATIONS & TRAFFIC SERVICE (MCTS) LOCATION	BANDS GUARDED/ XMIT FREQUENCY	
		DAY	NIGHT
VON	Canadian Coast Guard MCTS St. John's, NFLD (St. John's Coast Guard Radio)	VHF 16 2182 H3E	VHF 16 2182 H3E
VCM	Canadian Coast Guard MCTS St. Anthony, NFLD (St. Anthony Coast Guard Radio)	VHF 16 2182 H3E	VHF 16 2182 H3E
VOK	Canadian Coast Guard MCTS Labrador (Labrador Coast Guard Radio)	VHF 16 2182 H3E	VHF 16 2182 H3E
VCP	Canadian Coast Guard MCTS Placentia (Placentia Coast Guard Radio)	VHF 16 2182 H3E	VHF 16 2182 H3E
VOJ	Canadian Coast Guard MCTS Port aux Basques, NFLD (Port aux Basques Coast Guard Radio)	VHF 16 2182 H3E	VHF 16 2182 H3E
VCO	Canadian Coast Guard MCTS Sydney, Nova Scotia (Sydney Coast Guard Radio)	VHF 16 2182, H3E	VHF 16 2182, H3E
VCS	Canadian Coast Guard MCTS Dartmouth, Nova Scotia (Halifax Coast Guard Radio)	VHF 16 2182, H3E	VHF 16 2182, H3E
VAR	Canadian Coast Guard MCTS Saint John, New Brunswick (Fundy Coast Guard Radio)	VHF 16 2182, H3E	VHF 16 2182, H3E

Please note that CAMSLANT Chesapeake (NMN) provides the east coast ON-CALL SITOP service.

DIRECT PRINTING RADIO-TELETYPE SELCALL 1097 (NMN) (Carrier Frequency Shown)		
SHIP TRANSMIT	SHORE TRANSMIT	Availability
4172.3 kHz	4210.3 kHz	(Available upon request)
6264.4 kHz	6314.3 kHz	(2300 UTC - 1100 UTC)
8388.0 kHz	8426.3 kHz	(CONTINUOUS)
12490.0 kHz	12590.8 kHz	(CONTINUOUS)
16696.5 kHz	16817.8 kHz	(CONTINUOUS)
22297.5 kHz	22387.8 kHz	(1100 UTC - 2300 UTC)

SSB VOICE FREQUENCIES (NMN and NMF sites)(Carrier Frequency Shown)		
SHIP TRANSMIT	SHORE TRANSMIT	Availability
4134.0 kHz	4226.0 kHz	(2300 UTC - 1100 UTC)
6200.0 kHz	6501.0 kHz	(CONTINUOUS)
8240.0 kHz	8764.0 kHz	(CONTINUOUS)
12242.0 kHz	13089.0 kHz	(1100 UTC - 2300 UTC)
16432.0 kHz	17314.0 kHz	(Available upon request)

NOTES:

Mariners should note that NAVTEX ICE REPORTS (Category 3) may be programmed for rejection at the receiver. Mariners desiring to receive IIP NAVTEX ICE REPORTS must ensure that their receivers are appropriately programmed for reception.

The Ice Chart Facsimile and the 00 UTC and 12 UTC bulletins are available on the World Wide Web at the International Ice Patrol's products section. IIP's home page can be found at: <http://www.uscg.mil/lantarea/iip/home.html>

The Ice Chart Facsimile is also available via Fax on Demand from the International Ice Patrol's telefax machine. Please dial 1-860-441-2773 from a fax phone, and press "Copy" after successful connection.

The Ice Chart Facsimile is also available via E-mail on Demand from the National Weather Service's FTP e-mail system. Please send an e-mail to ftpmail@weather.noaa.gov with any subject line. The body of the text should read as follows:

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open
cd fax
get PIEA88.gif    ---or---    get PIEA88.TIF
quit
```

The e-mail server will then automatically send a GIF or TIF formatted image of the facsimile back to the sender's e-mail address.

The Ice Bulletin is now being posted to the Automated Weather Network, a weather service bulletin board accessible by U.S. Department of Defense and NATO units. Use header STNT41 KNIK to access Ice Patrol's products.

INMARSAT SafetyNET BROADCASTS:

The 00 UTC and 12 UTC Ice Bulletins will be broadcast over the AOR-E and AOR-W Satellites. The 00 UTC bulletin is broadcast between 2000 and 2359 UTC, and the 12 UTC bulletin is broadcast at 1130 UTC. In addition, safety broadcasts regarding icebergs outside of the Limits of All Known Ice will be sent over both satellites upon receipt.

Instructions for sending INMARSAT Code 42 Warnings:

INMARSAT-A

1. Select COMSAT (global identification code 01).
2. Select routine priority.
3. Select duplex telex channel.
4. Initiate the call.
5. Upon receipt of GA (Go Ahead), select the desired two-digit prefix access code followed by at + sign (42+).
6. Send your report.
7. The message will be forwarded, at no charge, from the mariner to International Ice Patrol by COMSAT, Corp.

INMARSAT-C (General instructions)

1. Access the 2-digit code service on SES as instructed in your manufacturer's information.
2. Using the SES text editor, prepare the message.
3. Enter the 2-digit code of the service required (42).
4. Select the CES (01, COMSAT, AORW)
5. Transmit your message.
6. Wait for acknowledgment from the CES.
7. The message will be forwarded, at no charge, from the mariner to International Ice Patrol by COMSAT, Corp.